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POETICAL EXPRESSION

OF

THE GOSPELS.

By WILLIAM J. KNOWLES.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.
1859.

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LOS ANGELES

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INTRODUCTION.

In Matthew, Mark, with Luke and John,
I plainly show how they begun;
Although 'tis plain, and simple too,
We find the precepts strictly true.

Our Savior's mission here is seen,
By Jews was treated very mean;
Herod, the King, did bear a part,
Because he had a wicked heart.

Of John the Baptist, who arose;
The twelve Apostles Jesus chose;
Joseph and Mary, Peter's life,
The crowing cock did cause him strife.

The sepulchre, of solid stone,
Those two disciples how they run,
Sweet spices which the women brought,
For lessons which their Savior taught.

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The herd of swine, the devils too,
The loaves and fishes, how they go;
The midnight prayer, the mountain top,
The ass's colt, the men on foot.

Judas and Pilate, crown of thorns,
The Angel Zacharias warns,
High Priest Caiaphas, Simeon's life,
The net and fishes caused no strife.

The Publican and Pharisee,
Those cripples healed without delay,
The woman kissing Jesus's feet,
The rich man took the lowest seat.

How Lazarus fared, his friendly dogs,
The oxen, sheep, and little doves,
The scourge of cords, the tables shake,
The changers fleeing through the gate.

The Savior's death, the rending tomb;
Meets the disciples at their room;
All who were faithful, good and wise,
Ere long should meet him in the skies.

ST. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL.

In Matthew's Gospel, we may find
How Jesus came on earth;
Joseph and Mary were resigned,
Before the Savior's birth.

The angel of the Lord came down,
Told Joseph what to do,
When he was sleeping very sound,
His strength did then renew.

Believed the words the angel spake,
Took Mary for his wife,
The yoke of sin their son would break,
And teach the way to life.

As prophets long before had said,
Immanuel he must be,
Would point the way for man to tread,
By land or on the sea.

When old King Herod heard of this,
  It made him feel quite bad,
Spake to the Jews in great distress,
  About that princely lad.

Asked the wise men, about what time
  They saw the star appear,
Said, go and search until you find,
  And safely may you steer.

Then bring me word, when you shall see
  The lad who soon will reign,
I'll go to him, and bend the knee,
  The word he spake was vain.

That would not do, he told a lie,
  That child he sought to slay;
An angel of the Lord drew nigh,
  And pointed out the way.

Made known to Joseph what to do,
  To save the child from harm,
He fled by night, and Mary too,
  In Egypt soon did come.

Old wicked Herod then was mad,
  All little children slew,
That he might get that princely lad,
  And prove it to be true.

Soon Herod died, the angel came,
  And unto Joseph said,
Return to Israel, there remain,
  For Herod now is dead.

Soon, John the Baptist did appear,
  And made a noble show,
He warned the wicked far and near,
  To turn from things below.

Repent, he said, return and live,
  And flee the wrath to come,
Salvation you may all receive,
  Reserved for every one.

His coat was made of camels hair,
  A girdle spanned him round,
He made those wicked people stare,
  Wherever they were found.

All who received the words he spake,
  The same he did baptize,
Then of the sacrament partake,
  Rejoicing as they rise.

When Jesus came from Galilee,
  And was baptized by John,
What followed this, we plainly see,
  'Twas God's anointed one.

The opening heavens declared his fame,
God's spirit did descend,
Just like a dove it kindly came,
And lit upon that friend.

A voice was heard by all around,
Announced his mission here,
All who believe, in truth abound,
He'll wipe the rolling tear.

Then he was tempted forty days,
The nights were just the same,
Deceit was used in various ways,
For this the tempter came.

Then he did flee when Jesus said
Bright angels did descend,
Because the devil then had fled,
His case they would defend.

He walked upon the briny deep,
He preached the heavenly word,
Poor fishermen did safely keep,
When they his voice had heard.

All left their nets, as we are told,
His sacred will obeyed,
His power at length he did unfold,
For this, on earth he stayed.

All kinds of sickness gently healed,
  His fame spread far and wide,
Those heavenly weapons he did wield,
  Called thousands by his side.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

That sermon on the mount he gave,
  Was very plain and clear;
All who abide his grace should have,
  The gospel armor wear.

The poor in spirit, mourner too,
  The meek and thirsty ones,
Each hungry soul he would renew,
  And call the same his sons.

The merciful and pure in heart,
His blessing shall obtain;
Peacemakers too must share a part,
No effort is in vain.

The persecuted sons of men,
In striving to do good,
May bless the Lord, and say amen,
When they are treated rude.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad,
A blessing is in store,
Such persecutions martyrs had,
And many gone before.

He taught those people how to pray,
So simple was the prayer,
All could repeat, by night or day,
In using proper care.

Rash judgment, Jesus did condemn,
The hypocrite made known,
For judging thus his fellow men,
The Savior will not own.

The tree which bears the best of fruit
Is valued for its worth,
It firmly stands, so deep the root,
Compared with christian birth.

He cleansed the leper, calmed the sea,
  Centurion's servant healed,
The palsied limbs at once made free,
  The blind had sight revealed.

The bloody issue was made whole,
  The ruler's daughter raised,
Taught the disciples in his school,
  For this their maker praised.

His twelve apostles then were named,
  Their mission did receive,
In doing good they would be blamed,
  Find much to make them grieve.

Were sent as sheep among the wolves,
  As serpents, must be wise,
And harmless as the little doves,
  Thus meet their enemies.

Like sparrows they would be preserved,
  Not one should ever fall,
The faithful prayer is known and heard,
  When on the Lord they call.

Each spear of hair is numbered o'er,
  By God, their heavenly king,
For faithful ones, has much in store,
  His praises they shall sing.

Concerning John, he then did say,
  None greater could be found,
And all his followers who obey,
  With honors shall be crowned.

A withered hand he then did heal,
  And plucked the ears of corn;
To Pharisees he did appeal,
  'Twas on the sabbath morn.

Should they have sheep fall in a pit,
  Upon God's holy day,
No means be used the same to get?
  They could not answer nay.

Should man, more value than a sheep,
  Be left to perish thus?
A single word they could not speak,
  They knew it was not worse.

He called them vipers by the way,
  Blasphemers every one,
Unless they turn, his word obey,
  Their race would soon be run.

He spake of Jonas and the whale,
  A signal here was given,
Three days and nights they both did sail,
  Referred to earth and heaven.

He spake of tares among the wheat,
  A parable was given,
Those wicked men who lie and cheat,
  Are tares, unfit for heaven.

Then John the Baptist lost his head,
  To please that wicked King,
What mother spake, the damsel said,
  Did in a charger bring.

Five thousand men, and women too,
  Christ told them to sit down,
The people's strength did then renew,
  The loaves and fish went round.

He rescued Peter from the wave,
  Just when his faith had gone,
Cried for his master then to save,
  That power was soon made known.

A lunatic at length was healed;
  Of vineyards then he spake,
The last, as first, the same must yield,
  When men the Savior seek.

He rides upon an ass's colt,
  No man had ever rode,
Jerusalem could find no fault,
  But all the people bowed.

CHRIST'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM.

Some spread their garments in the way,
  With branches did the same,
Then cried Hosanna night and day,
  For this were not to blame.

The fig tree withered by his word,
  The blind and lame made whole,
The Scribes and Pharisees were stirred,
  That he should bear the rule.

Were sore displeased at what he done,
  Their temple overthrown,
The father said, as well as son,
  That discord had been sown.

A woe to them he then pronounced,
  That they oppressed the poor,
Their final doom he did announce,
  For such laid up in store.

The outward part kept clean and nice,
  The inside full of dirt,
And no good doctrines will they prize,
  From such they all depart.

While those who watch and humbly pray,
  Will find a safe retreat,
The wicked who their trust betray,
  Shall take the lowest seat.

Their temple soon would be destroyed,
  The Savior then made known,
Her splendid courts should all be void,
  For seeds which they had sown.

To judgment soon they all must come,
  No one should know the day,
Must give account for what they done,
  They did not watch and pray,

As in the days when Noah lived,
  A serious time would be,
Though ample warning they received,
  They would not bend the knee.

Ten virgins then he did present,
  One half of them were wise,
Had lamps and oil as on they went,
  The foolish did surprise.

They took their lamps, but had no oil,
  The first had none to spare;
No light to aid them in their toil,
  For want of proper care.

He spake of talents men possessed,
  Said each must toil and strive,
Improving one, he should be blest,
  As him who had the five.

Then Judas, who was very bold,
  Betrayed his heavenly king,
His end was serious, we are told,
  For doing such a thing.

Before the mournful scene began,
  Ere on the cross he hung,
With his disciples he did stand,
  Brake bread with them alone.

THE LAST SUPPER.

That truly was a trying time,
  To meet with such a death,
When he dispensed the bread and wine,
  Must then resign his breath.

It was a bitter cup to take,
  He died that all might live;
When we repent, our sins forsake,
  Salvation may receive.

Poor Peter thought that he was strong,
  But ah, how soon he fell,
One look from Jesus, passed along,
  The crowing cock did tell.

He very bitterly did cry,
  As every sinner must,
If they would be prepared to die,
  In Jesus put their trust.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

He on the cross gave up the ghost,
  The solid rocks were rent,
Was in the tomb three days at most,
  And then to heaven he went.

In Joseph's sepulchre was laid,
  With heavy stone to guard,
His vile accusers were afraid,
  That they his body scared.

Those women, early on that day,
  Beheld the heavy stone
Was rolled away, the scriptures say,
  That sacred body gone.

An angel, dressed in white, was there,
  The keepers then did shake,
He told the women not despair,
  Fresh courage now to take.

They quickly ran and told this thing,
  With fear and mingled joy,
Disciples came and worshipped him,
  Whom wicked Jews destroy.

He on the mountain spake again,
  All his disciples heard,
Told them to preach, away with sin,
  Dispense his holy word.

Be faithful till the end shall come,
  They then should see his face,
In heaven above was ample room,
  Rejoice in songs of praise.

ST. MARK'S GOSPEL.

We find in Mark, the same expressed,
As Matthew told before,
Concerning John, and all the rest,
The rich as well as poor.

That messenger who soon would come,
Forerunner of the Lord,
The way prepare for God's own Son,
Those treasures he had stored.

The great physician of the soul
Was soon to come on earth,
The sight restore, the lame make whole,
Saint John announced his birth.

By him baptized, as we have seen,
John done it by request,
Had been informed what this should mean,
By Jesus was expressed.

Some parables he did present,
  To show the way to steer,
When souls return, from sin repent,
  They never shall despair.

Explained the same, as we are told,
  While preaching on the shore,
Did in the ship the same unfold,
  When people pressed him sore.

The way-side hearer, how he fared,
  And all the various grades,
To make it plain, no pains were spared,
  The same in darkness fades.

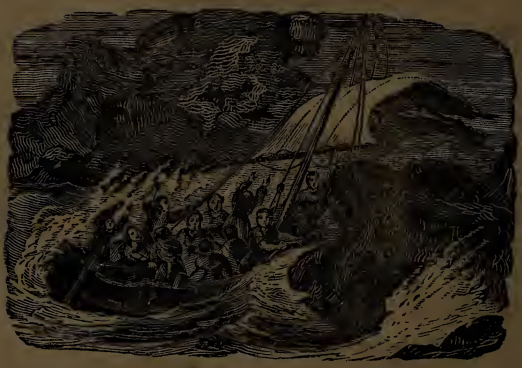
Just like the seed in stony ground,
  Or that among the thorns,
The careless soul, wherever found,
  Will meet with many storms.

Fowls of the air will gather up,
  The thorn will choke the same,
The husbandman shall have no crop,
  For reasons he did name.

But should he cultivate his land,
  Bestow the proper care,
The seed will rise and firmly stand,
  Some food may have to spare.

The mustard seed, so very small,
  Becomes a noble tree,
Spreads forth its branches wide and tall,
  Where sporting birds are free.

So man, whose gift is scarcely seen,
  The smallest to be found,
With proper culture, shows a green,
  His course is safe and sound.



THE STORM.

When he had done, a storm came on,
  The ship was full of waves,
Rebuked the wind, its power was gone,
  His comrades were amazed.

Why are ye fearful, then he said,
  No faith to bear thee through,
Conversed together of the deed,
  And knew it to be true.

When he had reached the other side,
  And came upon the shore,
One from the Tombs the Savior spied,
  Unclean in every pore.

Could not be bound with ropes or chains,
  No fetters could withstand,
Were rent in pieces by his strains,
  Was aided by that band.

Dwelt in the mountains night and day,
  Oft cut himself with stones,
He saw the Savior far away,
  And uttered heavy moans.

His kind compassion then was moved,
  That legion could not stand,
Though many devils, vain and rude,
  A fierce and cruel band.

They begged the Savior of mankind,
  Not send them far away ;
He said, go in the herd of swine,
  Two thousand did obey.

The course they ran was very steep,
Led straightway to the sea,
The man could then more calmly speak,
From devils safe and free.

They soon had perished, swine and all,
Their keepers were afraid,
Such power evinced, so strange the call,
Great tumult this had made.

The man did publish all around
What God for him had done,
His health was lost, but now was sound,
Could talk, rise up and run.

The ruler's little daughter healed,
The bloody issue too,
He saw her faith, his power revealed,
A touch did prove it true.

A damsel raised from sleep of death,
Her friends no more did weep,
She was restored with life and breath,
Well able then to speak.

Great consternation soon was felt,
To know what this should be,
Such power revealed, where'er he went,
So easy and so free.

Some were offended, sought revenge,
  Their angry passions rose,
That he should cause so great a change,
  In friends as well as foes.

This carpenter, whom we have seen,
  His parents well we know,
Are plagued to learn what this should mean,
  Such power from him doth flow.

He marveled at their unbelief,
  Yet still continued on,
Said to the twelve, be mild and meek,
  Should they be left alone.

CHRIST SENDING FORTH THE APOSTLES.

Then sent them forth, by two and two,
With ample power to heal
The hardest cases here below,
When they on him should lean.

No money take, nor any bread,
No scrip, but staff alone,
One coat, with sandals thou shalt tread
The way which Christ hath gone.

Where'er you go, by night or day,
Be true in word and deed,
Shake off the dust, and turn away,
Unless you 're well received.

Their doom is then forever sealed,
Because they were so rude,
Those twelve went out into the field,
Dispensed the heavenly word.

They cast out devils, said repent
Before it is too late,
Healed all the sick, as on they went,
Their sufferings did abate.

King Herod then felt very bad,
Thought he was losing ground,
Soon John the Baptist did behead,
That he might still be crowned.

Disciples then his body took,
  And laid with kindred dust,
Of loaves and fishes then partook,
  Their master made it last.

Then to the mountain Jesus goes,
  Engaged in fervent prayer,
Walked on the sea when waves arose,
  And made those people stare.

He fed the multitude again
  As he had done before,
The faithful ones did on him lean,
  Found much laid up in in store.

He cast an evil spirit out,
  Which rent the father's son,
It made him foam and rave about,
  His race must soon be run.

But Jesus spake a single word,
  The devil knew his power,
It was enough, that voice he heard,
  He left, was seen no more.

Concerning marriage then he spake,
  Of two becoming one,
The little children then did take,
  He told them all to come.

LITTLE CHILDREN
brought to
JESUS

All must become as free from sin,
  As little children are,
The humble should salvation win,
  Receive the best of care.

Then poor Bartimeus, who was blind,
  At once received his sight,
By faith the man became resigned,
  And then his eyes were bright.

He rode an ass, as Matthew said,
  Up to Jerusalem went,
Great was the time those people had,
  For this they must relent.

He told them what would come to pass,
  Prepare to meet that day,
When he was sitting on the ass,
  He pointed out the way.

At length was brought to Pilate's bar,
  His mission soon must close,
Although the bright and morning star,
  Was hated by his foes.

That wicked Judas was the man,
  Who Matthew said was mean,
He was unable long to stand,
  This plainly may be seen.

JUDAS BETRAYING CHRIST.

The God of glory, crucified
By those he came to save,
For this they could not long abide,
They very soon must grieve.

They smote and bruised that blessed one,
Spit in the Savior's face,
Was treated thus for what he done
To save the human race.

But he arose, the tomb must yield,
His power could not withstand,
The sword of justice he must wield,
They soon did understand.

To his disciples did appear,
Before he left the earth,
Said, preach the gospel far and near,
Proclaim the heavenly birth.

Be true and faithful, every one,
Till time shall be no more,
Where I have gone you then shall come,
A crown is laid in store.

He then departed, went to heaven,
There intercedes for all,
To faithful souls his grace is given,
He'll hear their earnest call.

THE VISION OF ZACHARIAS.

ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL.

Here Luke rehearses much the same
  That Mark expressed before,
The way that John the Baptist came,
  The same laid up in store.

A certain priest did then abide,
  When Herod wore the crown,
He had a wife dwelt by his side,
  And righteous both were found.

And Zacharias was his name,
  Elizabeth was his wife,
They had no child, though not to blame,
  No cause of any strife.

Quite aged both those people were,
  Burnt incense to the Lord,
An angel told them not to fear,
  Were blessings for them stored.

Thy wife shall bear to thee a son,
  And John shall be his name,
For him the people must make room,
  Good reasons for the same.

The Holy Ghost shall fill his soul,
  Be great before the Lord,
He will present the golden rule,
  That man might be restored.

Turn many souls from sinful ways,
  Through power of God on high,
Will toil and strive their hearts to raise,
  And bring salvation nigh.

Then Zacharias spake and said,
  How shall this thing be done,
For I am old, much help do need,
  My wife hath aged grown?

The angel's answer was received,
  His name was Gabriel too,
My message thou hast not believed,
  Nor thought it to be true.

Thou shalt be dumb because of this,
  Until it come to pass,
That son will rise in righteousness,
  His mission long shall last.

When from the temple he appeared,
  They found he could not speak,
Made signs to show how he had fared,
  His earthly home did seek.

His wife conceived, five months did hide,
  Because this thing was so,
An angel came, dwelt by her side,
  Told Mary what to do.

Be not afraid, the angel said,
  What thou hast done is right,
A sacred teacher all do need,
  Dispensing heavenly light.

Thou art the chosen one of God,
  A son thou soon shalt bear,
He shall be great as Christ the Lord,
  The way he will prepare.

Jesus by name that son shall be,
  Great power he will possess,
All unto him must bow the knee,
  Receive his heavenly grace.

How shall this be? then Mary said,
  A man I never knew:
The Holy Ghost will sow the seed,
  And prove it to be true.

Those were the words the angel spake
In making his reply,
Her cousin, too, a show would make,
Ere she was called to die.

Though something old, bring forth a son,
Elizabeth was her name,
For she in Christ must have her turn,
And John would be his name.

All things are possible with God,
This Mary understood,
Be it according to thy word,—
The angel then removed.

To the hill country Mary went,
To Judea she did haste,
To Zacharias' house was sent,
Elizabeth there embraced.

When both had met, the babe did leap,
The Holy Ghost was there,
And then Elizabeth did speak,
The reason did declare.

She blessed the Lord, and Mary too,
For both had learned his power,
Found what the angel said was true,
Their maker did adore.

About three months those women shared
  Each other's kind embrace,
Elizabeth was then prepared
  To give the child a place.

Brought forth a son, they called him John,
  His parents both agree,
The father wrote, the thing was done,
  As all may plainly see.

Those people marvelled, one and all,
  At what they did behold;
His tongue was loosed, on God did call,
  His praises did unfold.

Much fear those people did express,
  So strange the child appeared,
But when they learned he came in peace,
  Their hearts were greatly cheered.

His Father's heart with pleasure filled,
  He prophesied, and said,
What unto him had been revealed,
  The life that son would lead.

A light in darkness he would be,
  In God would put his trust,
Declare to all who bow the knee,
  The last as well as first.

Shall find the way to Zion's hill,
Where Jesus Christ doth reign,
Who hath appeared, made known his will,
No word he spake was vain.

The child did grow in strength and power,
His mission soon made known,
His life the righteous would adore,
While erring ones do mourn.

Forerunner of the King of kings,
The Savior of mankind,
Came to atone for people's sins,
When they would seek and find.

The time approached, the Savior came,
Was in a manger laid,
Joseph nor Mary were to blame,
The word of God obeyed.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
An angel spake, and said,
Fear not, my friends, all will be right
About that princely lad.

Then suddenly a heavenly host
Gave glory to the Lord,
To praise his name should be the first,
By all must be adored.

To Bethlehem the shepherds came,
  Found Joseph, Mary too,
Babe in the manger they had lain,
  All this they found was true.

Then they rejoiced and praised his name,
  At what they saw and heard,
To be adored the Savior came,
  Dispense his holy word.

Then good old Simeon, who was just,
  Received the message given,
If he would in the Savior trust,
  Should find the way to heaven.

Took in his arms that blessed one,
  He then could die in peace,
The time had come, his work was done,
  His glory would not cease.

Twelve years of age the child had reached,
  Did linger far behind,
He to the Doctors then did preach,
  His parents could not find.

They soon returned and found their son,
  With Lawyers, Doctors too,
Appeared so old in all he done,
  Astonished not a few.

CHRIST DISPUTING WITH THE DOCTORS.

His parents asked him what it meant,
  That he remained behind,
To do his Father's will was sent,
  And they must feel resigned.

When John the Baptist did arise,
  Then Pontius Pilate reigned,
He told those people to be wise,
  Then they would not be blamed.

High priest Caiaphas then was seen,
  As John was coming on,
The baptist knew what this did mean,
  God's word he leaned upon,

On Jordan's banks, in country towns,
  He preached the heavenly word,
Said, seek that wisdom which abounds
  In Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Esais prophesied the same,
  When Christ would come on earth,
He spake of John who now had come,
  Proclaimed the heavenly birth.

Prepare the way, as prophets said,
  For Christ the sovereign King,
Make straight the paths for man to tread,
  Be free from every sin.

He gave good counsel to them all,
  Said, flee the wrath to come,
For high and low, the short and tall,
  In heaven is ample room.

Should crave no more from any one,
  Than what you would bestow,
They fain would learn about this son,
  Were anxious then to know.

Herod the tetrach was reproved,
  Because of Philip's wife,
Put John in prison, used him rude,
  Not then did take his life.

When all the people were baptized,—
  Jesus among the rest,—
A voice from heaven proclaimed him wise,
  Great power he would possess.

The Holy Ghost did now descend,
  The shape was like a dove,
Did then abide upon that friend,—
  A voice was heard in love :

This truly is the Son of God,
  The Father loves him well,
His age was thirty, shoulders broad,
  The son of Joseph still.

Then Christ was tempted by the way,
  The trial was severe,
He in the wilderness did stray,
  When Satan did appear.

Full forty days he fasted there,
  No food was to be found,
And yet he never did despair,
  In honors must be crowned.

He then was hungry, longed for food,
  The devil tried again,
His art the Savior understood,
  He could not enter in.

Said, if thou be the Son of God,
  These stones at once make bread,
Then Jesus spake, was understood,
  It is not all we need.

When they had reached the mountain top,
  The devil tried again
To fill the Savior's mind with hope,
  And lead him into sin.

All kingdoms of the world were shown
  The Savior of mankind,
If he would worship, falling down,
  He then might feel resigned.

Now get thee hence, the Savior said,
  He let the tempter know
His malice could not do the deed,
  His kingdom overthrow.

The word is written very plain,
  As Jesus did reply,
From other gods thou shalt refrain,
  Except the One on high.

Then to the temple he was brought,
On a pinnacle was set,
For wicked Satan vainly thought
To spread the fatal net.

Cast thyself down, the tempter said,
Kind angels will appear,
And render all the help you need,
To save you from despair.

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God,
The Savior did reply,
One doing this shall feel the rod,
And must forever die.

Then Satan left him for a while,
And Jesus preached the word,
His fame was known for many a mile,
His virtues spread abroad.

Declared his mission to them all,
By signs and wonders too,
Those who would come, obey the call,
Their spirits would renew.

The broken hearted were restored,
The lepers were made whole,
Those evil spirits knew the Lord,
Were subjects to his rule.

Rebuked diseases, various kinds,
  Their comforts did increase,
Convinced the rude and skeptic minds,
  That they from sin must cease.

In Simon's ship he next is seen,
  When people pressed him sore,
He there explained what he did mean,
  As he had done before.

Launch out, he said, into the deep,
  Let down your nets again,
The words he spake they fain would keep,
  This plainly may be seen.

We've toiled all night, then Simon said,
  No fish have taken yet,
We'll try again, food much we need,
  Thy word would not forget.

Such multitudes they did enclose,
  Their net could not withstand.
Another ship did interpose,
  And helped them safe to land.

Then Simon Peter well did know,
  That power did come from God,
His grace to all he would bestow,
  Who seek for heavenly food.

Then Simon Peter, James and John,
Were very much surprised,
The change which they had undergone,
Did teach them to be wise.

They left their ships and followed him,
Whose word was full of power,
He cleansed the leper, made him clean,
Had done the same before.

The scribes and pharisees beheld,
And Doctors of the law,
Such love and power had been revealed,
Which none had ever saw.

To the palsied man he said, arise,
Take up thy bed and walk,
Those people saw it with surprise,
It was a noble work.

He said to Levi, follow me,
That call he did obey,
Then made a feast, was kind and free,
He chose the good old way.

There many publicans sat down,
And sinners shared a part,
The scribes and pharisees did mourn,
Portrayed a wicked heart.

But Jesus answered them, and said,
  The whole no help may need,
Yet sickly ones, who keep their bed,
  Are those I came to feed.

THE CRIPPLE HEALED.

At length a cripple he did heal,
  That they might learn his power,
The holy sabbath did reveal,
  Which he had laid in store.

Stretch forth thy hand, the Savior said,
At once he did obey,
It was restored, as he had need;
No trust would he betray.

Those wicked men, with madness filled,
Such mighty works were done,
That sovereign power which they beheld,
In Christ, the Father's Son.

He spent all night in secret prayer,
With God, the heavenly King,
That he would yet the sinner spare,
Eternal life to win.

His twelve Apostles then he chose,
Peter and Andrew come,
James, John, nor Philip did refuse,
Bartholomew made one.

Matthew and Thomas with the rest,
Then James and Simon rise,
Judas, the brother of James, the next,
The traitor all despise.

He then came down, stood in the plain,
Disciples by his side,
Those people met, of every name,
From cities far and wide.

Old Tyre and Sidon, on the coast,
  Jerusalem did appear,
All that assembled made a host,
  With people from Judea.

Came to be healed by Jesus Christ,
  All who were found unclean,
The poorest child was not despised,
  He bid them all come in.

A touch from him was found enough,
  Such virtues thence did flow,
He blessed them all, in love and truth,
  Their course he well did know.

The hungry soul, and weeping child,
  Shall find a good supply,
Rejoice in God, be meek and mild,
  Be His when called to die.

By doing good to every one,
  The saint and sinner too,
His house shall stand when time is gone,
  And prove the saying true.

While disobedient sons of men
  Neglect their best estate,
'Tis like the house destroyed by rain,
  Which on the sand was set.

He raised the widow's son to life,
As we are plainly shown,
The mother's heart again was light,
When she beheld her son.

Weep not, he said, then touched the bier,
Young man, he said, arise,
All those who saw it then, did fear,
Such power did them surprise.

The man sat up, began to speak,
His mother grieved no more;
The blind and lame obtained relief,
Then Jesus did restore.

These things were rumored all around,
Throughout Judea's coast,
The greatest prophet ever found,
Had healed and cured the most.

Those people knew not what to do,
Were taken by surprise,
And John the Baptist sent out two
To make the people wise.

They said to Jesus, who art thou?
From John the Baptist sent,—
The one to whom all men must bow,
Of every sin repent?

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Or shall we look for one to come,
  As Jesus Christ the Lord,
For whom the prophets said, make room,
  Such wisdom in him stored?

At once the Savior did reply,
  Tell John what you have seen,
All evil spirits must stand by,
  Lame and diseased made clean.

Blind eyes are opened, ears unstopped,
  The lame rise up and walk,
The leprous ones are not forgot,
  Tongues of the dumb can talk.

John's messengers did then depart,
  Of whom the Savior spake,
Forewarning every sinful heart,
  Their errors to forsake.

No prophet found to equal John,
  The greatest here below,
Of all who are of women born,
  Doth make a noble show.

The smallest in the heavenly world,
  Is greater still than he,
Such truths the Savior did unfold,
  That wicked men might see.

Some did repent, and were baptized,
  But Pharisees were bold,
The Lawyers too became unwise,
  Some wicked stories told.

The course for them was pointed out,
  The way made plain and clear,
They all from sin must turn about,
  This plainly did appear.

The vain excuses some would make,
  That Savior did rehearse,
Such cavilings must soon abate,
  Pronounced to be a curse.

He then was asked to take some meat,
  With Pharisees sit down;
On hearing this he took a seat,
  With sinful men was found.

A woman came, a sinner too,
  Some ointment had in store,
And on his feet her tears did flow,
  Then ointment she did pour.

Then wiped his feet upon her hair,
  The same she loved to kiss,
Used all the ointment, none to spare
  In view of future bliss.

The Pharisees did then complain,
  Because he suffered this,
Told Simon she was not to blame,
  Affords her joy and peace.

Then to those women he did say,
  Thy faith hath made thee whole,
With thankful heart go on thy way,
  Observe the golden rule.

He then did preach about the sower;
  By parable make known
What must be done by rich and poor,
  To reach the heavenly throne.

Like seed which fell among the thorns,
  Or on the barren rock,
Compared to sinful, erring ones,
  Who on this world do look.

But those who listen and obey,
  Like seed which taketh root,
Their progress seen by night and day,
  Are yielding precious fruit.

Such light will shine and bless mankind,
  While travelling here below,
The wandering souls become resigned,
  And virtue from them flow.

Next in a ship upon the lake,
When winds and waves run high,
Disciples heard the words he spake,
The storm was passing by.

One from the tombs he then did meet,
No clothing did he wear,
At once he fell at Jesus' feet,
In sorrow and despair.

No chains or fetters could withstand,
He snapped them as a thread,
Composed a fierce and ugly band,
Whom all the people dread.

They passed into a herd of swine,
Rushed forward toward the sea,
The troubled man was sane in mind,
From devils then was free.

A bloody issue was made whole,
An only daughter healed,
Five thousand fed, they all were full,
Great power was there revealed,

He sent his twelve Apostles out,
Well armed with heavenly grace,
Said, preach the gospel all about,
Instruct the human race.

No money take, nor scrip, or staves,
One coat is all you need,
No bread prepare, nor any loaves,
But sow the heavenly seed.

Go heal the sick as I have done,
The crippled ones restore,
Preach God the Father and the Son,
As you've been taught before.

In secret prayer be often found,
Your master does the same,
In fruits your labor must abound,
None such will be to blame.

Then seventy more were called to preach,
Their mission did receive,
Received their lesson how to teach,
That all might turn and live.

The fruitless fig tree Christ did curse,
He pointed out the way,
Straight was the gate, did oft rehearse,
To enter all must pray.

Do good upon the Sabbath day,
The pattern Jesus set,
And at the supper he did say,
The poor do not forget.

Those vain excuses which were made
  Received a stern rebuke,
Not one should come whom he had bade,
  His counsels had forsook.

A parable of the wandering sheep,
  The piece of silver too,
Of prodigals he then did speak,
  One case described as true.

He asked his father to bestow
  What goods he was to have,
To a far country then did go,
  That son at length did grieve.

Because he wasted all he had,
  Must feed among the swine,
He soon was brought to see his need,
  At length he must repine.

Thought of the home he left behind,
  Again would fain return,
He found his master still inclined
  To pay him all he earned.

He had transgressed his father's will,
  Confession must be made,
His father bid him enter in,
  His wanderings then were stayed.

The fatted calf was killed and dressed,
  Fine music was prepared,
His elder brother was distressed,
  So sumptuously he fared.

No fatted calf for me is slain,
  I've ne'er received a kid,
My younger brother now has come,
  The best he has received.

The father told him, in reply,
  All that I have is thine,
Thou hast been with me, ever nigh,
  Art ever true and kind.

But this thy brother wandered far,
  Was lost, but now is found,
The fatted calf we did prepare,
  Because he's safe and sound.

Of unjust stewards then he spake,
  Hypocrisy condemned,
The case of Lazarus he did take,
  No money to defend.

The rich man's fare was very fine,
  His linen was the best.
He could afford to take his wine,
  Provide a rich repast.

The poor man begged from day to day
  Before the rich man's gate,
Received the crumbs he threw away,
  So trying was his state.

The dogs then came to lick his sores,—
  At length, the beggar died,
In Abram's bosom he adores
  His guardian and his guide.

Ere long, the rich man passed the vale,
  His money could not save,
To good old Abram did appeal,
  His sympathy did crave.

He prayed that Lazarus might be sent,
  To grant him some relief,
And tell his friends they must repent,
  Salvation thus receive.

But ah, the same must ever close,
  The day of grace now past,
All who the simple path had chose,
  Their die was fully cast.

He shared the good things in this world,
  Which Lazarus could not get,
And now the scale, at length, has turned,
  And time had sealed their fate.

He spake of earnest, fervent prayer,
  The best that can be found,
The widow's mite, the judges care,
  True faith did gain the ground.

The publican and pharisee,—
  A difference here is seen,
The former would not bow the knee,
  He thought the other green.

The publican his guilt confessed,
  Portrayed an honest heart,
Did smite upon his naked breast,
  And took a humble part.

The happiest man, we plainly see,
  Was justified and blest,
The other would not bend the knee,
  And hence he was the least.

The rich man said, what shall I do,
  Eternal life to gain,
What wicked heart, he well did know,
  From sin he must refrain.

The money was his idol still,
  The Savior knew it well,
His real state he did reveal,
  That sorrowing look did tell.

Then Zaccheus he did climb the tree,
When Jesus passed that way,
So small in stature could not see,
His trust would not betray.

When Jesus came, he looked up,
Said, Zaccheus, now come down,
With thee to day I fain would sup,
He soon did reach the ground.

Those people murmured, one and all,
That he should be a guest,
On such a sinner make a call,
Excluding all the rest.

But Zaccheus had confession made,
Was penitent and kind,
Confessed his sin, was not afraid,
Quite humble, and resigned.

The Savior told him, in reply,
This day I visit thee,
Unto this house, he would draw nigh,
Salvation would be free.

Then Jesus spake of talents given,
Improvement must be made,
All that will find the path to heaven,
Must gain the same in trade.

Those talents which the first received,
  Had gained, and now was ten,
His master very much was pleased,
  Great confidence did win.

The second person gained the five,
  He very well had done,
Good satisfaction he did give,
  With Father and the Son.

The other came, his pound returned,
  Safe in a napkin kept,
The donor he had vainly scorned,
  His course would not accept.

That sacred trust he did betray,
  The Judge was near at hand,
Because he chose to disobey,
  The storm could not withstand.

The temple's ruin was foretold,
  When gifts were being made,
The mites that widow did unfold,
  Was reckoned all she had.

While some from great abundance give,
  Have much they well can spare,
The widow's mite which they received,
  With faith and humble prayer,

Was more than all which had been given,
  Great sacrifice she made,
It raised her spirit nearer heaven,
  Her soul on Jesus stayed.

The closing scenes were near at hand,
  That temple soon must fall,
Though firm and heavy, cannot stand,
  Those stones of granite wall.

Great wars and earthquakes shall arise,
  Commotions all around,
The wicked persecute the wise,
  Such trials will be found.

Yet righteous souls should never fear,
  The Lord is on their side,
Though sinful men are drawing near,
  They shall not long abide.

Though scorn and hatred they should meet,
  No spear of hair can fall,
The righteous God will not forget,
  When on His name they call.

The Jews conspire against their King,
  When wicked Judges came,
That vile accuser did begin,
  To scorn the Savior's name.

The Heavenly Teacher did betray,
  For money he received,
It caused him trouble, night and day,
  The stripes he much did need.

Betrayed his master with a kiss,
  Whom Peter soon denied,
Yet that Apostle found no peace,
  Until he wept and sighed.

When wicked Pilate had condemned
  The Savior of mankind,
King Herod in it had a hand,
  Though he no fault could find.

They fain would let the Savior go,
  But people cried the more,
They wished to give the fatal blow,
  Their vengeance on him pour.

They mocked and scourged that blessed one,
  Then crucified their King,
Between two thieves the Savior hung,
  Eternal life to win.

He bore our sins upon the tree,
  He died for all mankind,
If they would come and bow the knee,
  Eternal life should find.

When he had bowed, gave up the Ghost,
  And darkness veiled the sky,
The sun refused to light the coast,
  The Savior then did die.

But righteous Joseph loved him still,
  His body he desired,
The same to Pilate did reveal,
  Received what he required.

He had clean linen all prepared,
  A sepulchre of stone,
Sweet spices honest women spared,
  When Sabbath morn had come.

They saw the stone was rolled away,
  Quite early, as they came,
The body gone, the Angels say,
  He told you of the same.

They soon returned, and made it known,
  Then others came to see,
Old Peter ran, arrived there soon,
  With others did agree.

The Savior met them on their way,
  As we are often told,
He promised aid by night and day,
  Should they His truth unfold.

His loved disciples were amazed,
So strange these things appeared,
Their heavenly teacher whom they praise,
Had oft their spirits cheered.

Communed with them, received some food,
Broiled fish, and honey comb,
When all by grace should be renewed,
May reach the heavenly home.

When he had blessed them, one and all,
Returned again on high,
And those who answer to his call,
Shall meet him when they die.

ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL.

The gospel of John is found to contain,
Accounts of our Savior, and also his reign,
The Word, from beginning, was found to be good,
Forever was with him, as John understood.

Divine in his nature, all things by him made,
Supports every creature, in the sun or the shade,
By day and by night, on the land or the sea,
All nations and colors, the bond and the free.

John came as a witness, that men might believe,
He spake of the light, which he had received,
Was not the true light, he plainly expressed,
One greater was coming, in which there was rest.

That was the true light which all might possess,
Be joyful and happy while running their race,
By leaning on him whom prophets foretold,
Might have a safe journey, and never grow old.

This John bear witness, and spake very plain,
Of Jesus, the Savior, who soon was to reign,
His fulness and grace all men might receive,
Their journey be peaceful, and nevermore grieve.

The law came by Moses a long time before,
Which the baptist rehearsed, had laid up in store,
No one had beheld that Savior and King,
Whom John had reported salvation would bring.

The same bare record, to Gentile and Jew,
He was not the Savior, the same did renew,
Then art thou Elias? He said, I am not,
Nor was he the prophet those people had sought.

They were anxious to know, and repeated again,
Whether this could be so, an answer to win,
The voice of one crying in the regions of doubt,
Make way for the Savior, at once turn about.

As the prophet Esaias had said long before,
Make all the paths straight, and strive to restore
The sinful and erring, as they shall have need,
Be seeking and striving to sow the good seed.

Concerning baptism, a question was asked,
The reason John did it, not being the Christ,
I do it with water, he then did reply,
But one cometh after, is now very nigh,

Whose shoes I'm unworthy to tie or unloose,
To acknowledge that being, no one should refuse,
Bethabara, beyond Jordan, these words were expressed,
Where John was baptizing, many people had blessed.

The very next day, on raising his eyes,
He saw Jesus the Savior, and that did suffice,
Beholding his person, he called him a lamb,
Coming out from the Father, to labor with men.

The burdens of sin he would soon take away,
Which abound in the world, by night and by day,
Whom John had presented as the one that should come,
As head over all, for his presence make room.

This John bear record, saw the spirit of God,
Descending upon hm, to scatter abroad,
Like a dove it remained, was seen to abide,
All people made happy, who dwell by his side.

I baptize with water, my mission fulfill,
But God, the creator, his power would reveal,
Holy Ghost, from above, the same will baptize,
The sinful and erring he will not despise.

When they shall return, repent and believe
In their creator, he will freely forgive
All errors, committed by land or by sea,
Their sins are remitted, by bowing the knee.

When looking to Jesus, as he walked by the way,
Of the dove and the Lamb, he had something to say,
Two disciples then followed, when the Savior did speak
To see what was wanting, and whom they did seek.

The answer was, Rabbi, the master and king,
Where now is thy dwelling, may we not enter in?
He said, come and see, they both did obey,
Came up to his mansion, and abode that day.

About the tenth hour they afterwards found,
On hearing John speak those things which were sound,
One Andrew, near by, who was called Simon's brother,
Had found the Messias, was going still further.

He called him the Christ, this plainly is seen,
Then brought him to Jesus, because he was clean,
When the Savior beheld him, he called him a stone,
Or Cephas, the hard one; then others did come.

As the day passed away, to Galilee he went,
There Jesus found Philip, to whom he was sent,
He hailed from Bethsaida, where Andrew and Peter
Belonged in the city, brought up both together.

Philip findeth Nathaniel, had a word for to say,
He then spake of Moses, and men of his day,
The Prophets did write of one coming on,
From Joseph to arise, and be Mary's son.

Nathaniel then spake, his mind did express,
Can any good thing come out of this place,
Philip said, come and see; whom Jesus beheld,
Said one free from guile had entered the field.

How knowest thou me? Nathaniel did say:
When under the fig tree, I saw thee one day.
His answer was, Rabbi, thou art the true God,
The true king of glory, good tidings hast brought.

Jesus saith unto him, I saw thee, 'tis true,
Yet something is greater, between me and you,
Believest thou this, the Savior then said,
That all will be blest who do a good deed?

At length you will see bright angels above,
From the regions of glory, as onward you move,
On ladders ascending, and then going down,
Abiding with Jesus, and wearing the crown.

When three days had passed, a marriage took place,
In Cana of Galilee, where all had a taste,
When the wine was presented, which Jesus had made,
By all 'twas assented, as the best which they had.

Six water pots of stone, provided and set,
Filled up to the brim, Jesus told them to get,
On drawing this out, at the Savior's command,
The governor received it, and the whole marriage band.

This was done by the power of God from above,
To make them more happy, as onward they move,
Was a miracle of grace, the Lord did present,
To fulfill his mission, for this he was sent.

When this was concluded, such power was displayed,
He astonished those people by the wine which he made,
First miracle performed, as the Savior went forth,
He still was to show his power on the earth.

Made a scourge of small cords, and put them to use,
In Jerusalem's temple, because of abuse,
Selling oxen and sheep, and doves, he condemned,
Then drove them all out, from beginning to end.

Their change poured out, and the tables overthrew,
He bid them depart, their lives must renew,
In my Father's house, you must not do so,
Then all which trafficked, from the temple did go.

CHRIST AND NICODEMUS.

Christ taught Nicodemus, that he must be good.
Repent of his sins because he was rude,
Again to be born, he could not see through,
When Jesus explained it as righteous and true.

Be born of the Spirit which comes from above,
All people must have it as onward they move,
When called to depart, have a friend very near,
Who will be their conductor and give them good cheer.

Compared to the wind, which blows to and fro,
The sound may be heard as onward we go,
Not able to learn from whence it doth come,
Nor where it doth go when its work shall be done.

Those born of the Spirit are likened to this,
Affords them true wisdom with comfort and peace,
While here on the earth, all such will be blest,
And when they shall leave it, find permanent rest.

But how can this be? Nicodemus then said,
Though a master in Israel, more wisdom did need,
The Savior continued to enlighten his mind,
By words which he uttered, to make him resigned.

The way of salvation did plainly make known,
By signs and by wonders the course was laid down,
How ready men were to believe what they see,
While journeying here, very easy and free.

When I told you of earthly, you would not believe,
What I tell you of heavenly, you will not receive,
No man hath ascended in person to heaven,
By him that descended, salvation is given.

As Moses came forward, the serpent did raise,
To cure those bitten, their bodies to save,
Even so the Redeemer would be raised from the earth,
That men might be happy, obtain the new birth.

All those who believe in his love and his power,
Salvation in Jesus, their Maker adore,
Such truly will find the pearl of great price,
Be blest by the Savior while running their race.

God so loved the world that he gave his own Son,
To atone for their sins, ere their race should be run,
All those would receive who come to the light,
Be peaceful and happy, if they will do right.

To save the whole world, that Savior had come,
For those doing right, he had ample room,
Who acknowledge his goodness, his laws still obey,
He will ever be with them, by night and by day.

Be a shield and defence, his mercy and power
Will be their support when darkness shall lower,
His course being known, as gentle and good,
That soul shall be favored is well understood.

But those who are evil, and will not confess,
Reject the free offerings of wisdom and grace,
Come not to the light at the Savior's command,
The house which they build will rest on the sand.

When Jesus baptized in the land of Judea,
This John was near Enon to give them good chee
Where he did the same as the master had done,
If they would repent, to the Savior return.

The bride and the bridegroom then John did present,
To show them his mission as onward he went,
Said he was not Christ, he had told them before,
But he came to present him whom all should adore.

Jesus talked with the woman as he sat on the well,
In passing Samaria, his mission did tell,
About the sixth hour, we find this to be,
He conversed with the woman so pleasant and free.

She came to draw water, Jesus asked for a drink,
That a Jew should do this, knew not what to think,
They having no dealings with people down there,
The two are divided in business and fare.

Jesus said, if thou knowest what good would bestow,
On those who are faithful while traveling below,
With whom thou talkest of the matters on earth,
You would ask for the waters which give the new birth.

Having no means to draw, the woman replied,
And the well very deep, how canst thou decide,
Those waters which flow from God the most high,
Will prepare one to live, and also to die.

Art thou greater than Jacob, who gave us the well?
(The woman gave answer, she deeply did feel,)
Who drank with his children, his cattle and all,
The high and the low, the short and the tall?

By drinking this water, you will all thirst again,
But that which I give, is cleansing from sin,
Nevermore will they thirst, an unfailing well,
Of peace and of joy, to such will reveal.

The Savior continued to converse even more,
Concerning her husband he knew of before,
She called him a prophet, so much he expressed,
He knew all that was done, she frankly confessed.

Very much was surprised, his disciples the same,
Who the person could be, and from whence he came,
That he talked with a woman so humble in life,
Yet still they were silent, no cause for a strife.

Her water pot left, to the city did go,
Would tell all the news that others might know,
Come now, see a man, told me all I have done,
Is not this the Savior who soon was to come?

They met her desire, went down to the man,
Constrained him to eat, he did not begin,
I have meat for my food no one knoweth of,
By the will of my Father who reigneth above.

Then he spake of the harvest, four months were allowed
To raise up the corn, providing them food,
He referred to the wages which all should receive,
If they would be faithful, should never more grieve.

Many people believed what the woman expressed,
Samaritans constrained him to make it his place,
He abode there two days to meet their desire,
To fulfill his mission he then must retire.

Many more did believe on hearing his word,
By seeing themselves their feelings were stirred,
That he was the Christ they could not deny,
Had come to redeem them and lead them on high.

Then to Galilee he went, as we have been told,
To exhibit his power, his truths to unfold,
Galileans received him, for power he expressed,
When up to Jerusalem attending the feast.

In the land of Galilee he again did appear,
Where he made the good wine those people to cheer,
When a nobleman came, with Jesus did plead,
Had a son very sick, his service did need.

Except you see signs, the Savior replied,
No one will believe, although it be tried,
The man was distressed, very plainly was shown,
His state and condition to Jesus made known.

He said, go thy way, thy son will yet live,
That word he obeyed, at once he did leave,
The very same hour he began to amend,
Because of the Savior, the power he did send.

At the pool of Bethesda was another made whole,
When the waters were troubled it cured every soul,
Who first should go down, the halt or the lame,
However infirm, by whatever name.

THE FOOL OF BETHESDA.

When Jesus was there, one desired to go down,
For thirty-eight years was reckoned unsound,
He said to the Savior, no help can I find,
They all go before me, and leave me behind.

Arise, with thy bed, then Jesus did say,
No time did he lose, that word did obey,
The Jews were complaining, such a deed being done,
On God's holy day, to father or son.

Enquired who it was transgressing their law,
He could not inform them, the man did withdraw,
Had mixed in the crowd that he should not be known,
He knew what would follow as king on the throne.

Very soon in the temple he found him again,
Said he must be faithful, commit no more sin,
For fear something worse at length he would meet,
Unless he repented, must find a low seat.

The man told the Jews what Jesus had done,
How he had been cured by the very same one,
They persecute Jesus for his kindness and love,
Made known to the cripple as onward he moves.

Jesus spake of his Father, the example he set,
Had taught him to labor, his living to get,
They sought for to kill him, not merely for this,
Said God was his Father, the glory was his.

Then Jesus explained it, and told them his power,
That he was the person John spake of before,
His mission explained as holy and just,
Came out from his father to grant them a feast.

They must go to the scriptures and search for the truth,
What God hath revealed for the aged and youth,
If they would be faithful, fulfilling their trust,
All such would be happy, eternally blest.

If they should not listen, but turn a deaf ear,
And in their own course continue to steer,
They would find a hard road, no one to defend,
No person to cheer them when reaching the end.

Then after these things the Savior was known,
Performing great wonders as King on the throne,
Great multitudes followed, because they had seen
The cures he effected among the unclean.

Five thousand were fed, with only five loaves
And two small fishes, which the supper composed:
He sat on the mountain, his disciples near by,
The passover was coming, and the feast near by.

He bid them be seated among the tall grass,
The loaves and the fishes held out to the last,
The bread was of barley, the fishes not so,
Then Jesus gave thanks, it made a fine show.

When they were all filled, twelve baskets took up
Of the fragments remaining, which filled them with hope,
They called him a prophet, would make him their [king,
He left for the mountain in view of this thing.

When evening came on, the disciples did ship
To Capernaum, had gone a very rough trip,
The wind blew high, the night very dark,
In passing those waters they found it hard work.

Saw Jesus, their Savior, as he walked o'er the wave,
To show them his power, would have them believe,
They all were afraid when Jesus drew nigh,
He said, fear not, because it is I.

They then took him in, soon the ship reached the land,
Why this should be so they could not understand,

Labor not for the meat which soon will be gone,
But seek for the food coming fresh from the throne,

Which endureth forever, when the other will fail,
In all kinds of weather will shine like true steel,
That bread may be found by believing in me,
All those who will listen salvation shall see.

The Jews then murmured because he said this,
They knowing his parents, and all of their race,
But Jesus explained it very simple and plain,
Should they do as required, it would be to their gain.

One would betray him, come out from the twelve,
Possessed by the devil, engaged in his field,
It was Judas Iscariot they soon did perceive,
The course he pursued would cause them to grieve.

The Jews sought to kill him, this Jesus well knew,
Their hearts being evil, their words were untrue,
He was walking in Galilee because of this thing,
Not safe while in Judea by the news coming in.

He went to Mount Olives, in the temple he taught,
An adulterous woman to the Savior was brought,
For him to condemn, because she was rude,
With deeds which were evil her path being strewed.

Now Moses, they said, caused such to be stoned,
But what sayest thou on such being found?
They did this to tempt him, this plainly is seen,
He knew every thought, what each of them mean.

The Savior then said, any one without sin,
Let him cast the first stone, he now may begin,
They all felt condemned, every one of them left,
The oldest and youngest for sin had a gift.

Jesus looked on the woman, and saw her alone,
Spake of her accusers, she said, I have none,
Nor do I condemn thee, I will have thee to know,
But sin nevermore, as onward you go.

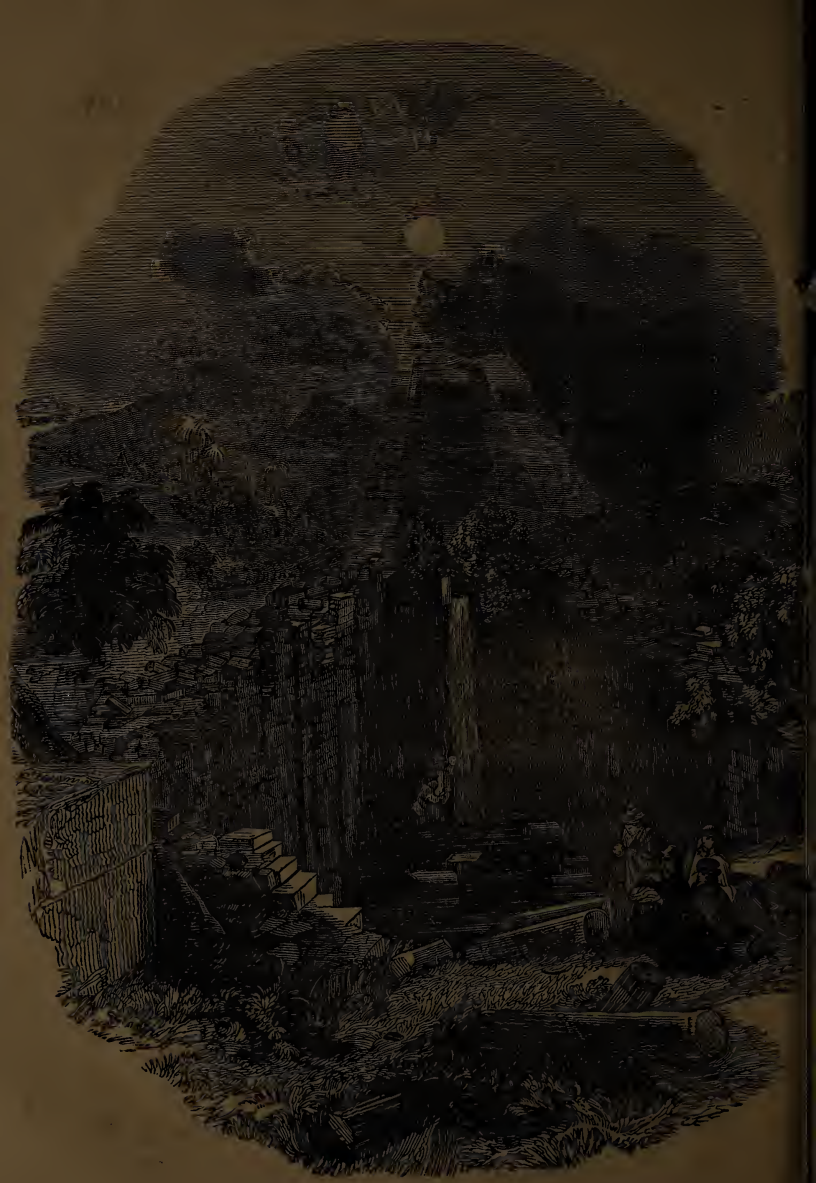
He was the true light to guide every man,
Who will seek for the truth before him shall stand,
But the Jews were reproved by the Savior most high,
All must be renewed before they should die.

They called him a devil; he answered, not so,
I seek not mine own glory, to make a great show;
They would not believe, would pelt him with stones,
But Jesus passed by them, each one in their turn.

Saw a man that was blind, had been so from his birth,
They said he had sinned, or his parents were hurt,
But the Savior replied, the thing is not so,
To show them his power, his eyes did renew.

While yet it was day a work must be done,
For it soon will be past and night will come on,
Then he spat on the ground, made clay of the same;
Anointed his eyes as soon as he came.

Go wash in Siloam, was then the command,
The words which he spake he did well understand,



THE POOL OF SILOAM.

Soon went to the pool, as Jesus had said,'
His eyes were restored, wished not to be led.

Being done on the Sabbath, the deed was condemned,
The Jews did not like it, declared he had sinned,
He told them the story, the man was born blind,
In calling his parents the same they did find,

Could not understand it, how this could be done,
But here were the parents, and there was the son,
Their reason was staggered, we plainly perceive,
It was Christ the Redeemer they all must believe.

He alone is the door, there is no other way,
All people may find it by night or by day,
The thief and the robber will suffer great loss,
Such a course is condemned as sinful and loose.

The sheep know his voice, but a stranger's know not,
His care and devotion they have never forgot,
But a hireling will flee, no strength to his love,
Careth not for the sheep, like the one from above.

Sees the wolf coming forward the sheep to destroy,
He useth no caution his course to annoy,
Leaves all as a prey to wild beasts of the wood,
They rend them in pieces, devour them as food.

There was a discussion, so strange was his course,
It caused a division, they would take him by force,
Some called him a devil, said he truly was mad,
Can devils do this? the other then said.

Ope the eyes of the blind, such miracles perform,
Exhibit such power in the calm or the storm?
Many Jews gathered round, did urge him to say,
Whether he was the Christ, and no other way.

Then Jesus repeated what he had done before,
They would not believe, nor the Savior adore,
Said God was his Father, and he was the Son,
In power and in glory they both became one.

The Jews sought to stone him, behaved very bad,
Would render no credit to the words which he said,
Then he went beyond Jordan, where John had baptized,
Where many believed and dwelt by his side.

The sickness of Lazarus was plainly made known,
And the time of his death, this also was shown,
He was loved by the Savior, and his sisters likewise,
And they loved their master, and this did suffice.

It was Mary and Martha to whom they refer,
The sisters of Lazarus, when this did occur,
Resided in Bethany, as we may perceive,
And the death of their brother did cause them to grieve.

That Mary anointed the feet of her Lord,
Wiped the same with her hair, because she adored,
Sent word unto Jesus that Lazarus was sick,
Knew he in her brother much interest did take.

But the Savior replied, it is not unto death,
He dwelt by their side on the right and the left,

Two days he remained, that they might be blest,
Relieve them from trouble, affording them rest.

The Jews sought to stone him, ye the was secure,
Would show his disciples how they must endure,
Relieve the distressed by night and by day,
For fear they would stumble and go the wrong way.

Friend Lazarus, he said, was resting in sleep,
I go to awake him and soon he will speak,
He referred to his death, it was even so,
Four days he'd been buried, the Savior did know.

Martha said unto Jesus, If thou hadst been here,
Our brother had lived to bid us good cheer,
She believed in his power, the same did express,
He would comfort their hearts, affording them peace.

She called unto Mary, said the master had come,
Desireth to see thee, would fain give him room,
Then Mary came quickly, and fell at his feet,
Said the same as her sister whom Jesus did meet.

As she was still weeping with friends by her side,
Jesus groaned in the spirit, his feelings were tried,
Said, where have ye laid him? they replied, come and see,
Then Jesus did weep spontaneous and free.

Behold how he loved him, the Jews then said,
Could he not preserve him that he should not have died?
He groaned in the spirit when he came to his grave,
A stone lay upon it, they called it a cave.

Remove now the stone, were the words Jesus spake,
Martha said to the Savior, he cannot awake,
Been dead four days, quite offensive must be,
Unto Martha he said, believe thou in me.

The glory of God you soon shall behold,
Then he cried, come forth, his power to unfold,
Then Lazarus appeared, with his grave clothes on,
Was bound hand and foot, to his sisters did come.

Many Jews then believed from what they had seen,
The miracles he wrought their favor did win,
Others called him a prophet, in word and in deed,
It made them quite angry, much evil decreed.

They sought to betray him, would put him to death,
For deeds he had done on the right and the left,
Were jealous that one should leave them behind,
It made them unhappy, could not be resigned.

Ere the passover came, a supper was made,
And Lazarus was present, who was raised from the dead,
That Martha had served, whom Jesus did love,
And Mary used ointment on her friend from above.

Anointed his feet, then wiped with her hair,
So great was the odor it made Judas stare,
Pronounced it a waste, was robbing the poor,
Not a whit did he care, nor had done before.

Let the woman alone, her Savior did say,
She hath done a good deed, is in the right way,

The poor are still with you, and ever will be,
But a very short time my face you will see.

They came to see Jesus, and Lazarus likewise,
Who was raised from the dead, it caused much surprise,
Many Jews had believed because of this thing,
The power of the Savior did cause them to sing.

Jesus went to the feast as Jerusalem's King,
Had a work to perform, salvation did bring,
Palm branches were spread, hosanna was cried,
In the name of that Savior who onward did ride.

Upon an ass colt, to Jerusalem did go,
Had a work to accomplish while traveling below,
Said all must bear fruit like wheat in the ground,
All such will be happy, in honors be crowned.

Very soon I must leave you, the Savior did say,
The hour is approaching when I go away,
Return to my Father, who is greater than I,
Will take all his people to mansions on high.

I am the true vine from the regions above,
Every branch bearing fruit my Father will love,
The union is sweet and the peace will be great,
With God and his people so calm is their state.

Let your heart not be troubled, believe thou in me,
That God is my Father you plainly may see,
There are mansions prepared in the sweet realms of bliss,
For all who will listen, my Gospel embrace.

The way ye may know, the truth and the life,
While traveling below will prevent you from strife,
Whatever you ask, in faith and in love,
My father will grant it as onward you move.

Christ's love to his people is plainly made known,
The just and the holy shall dwell on his throne,
While here on the earth, their journey is safe,
And when they shall leave, greater blessings will have.

These words spake Jesus to his Father on high,
Made reference to Judas, who would cause them to sigh
With torches and weapons the Savior will seek,
Giving way to his passions will ensure his defeat.

Jesus came before Pilate, when Peter was tried,
They brought accusations which Peter denied,
With thorns he is crowned, we plainly perceive,
For denying the master soon Peter must grieve.

They led him away, yet some must lament,
Many women which followed as onward they went,
By soldiers was mocked, malefactors likewise,
Derided by rulers and others as spies.

They divided his garments, four parts in the whole,
Each soldier had one, they did it by rule,
His coat shared the same, no seam to be found,
From the top to the bottom it was solid and sound.

Not rend it, they said, but cast lots for the same,
According to scripture, that none be to blame,

Jesus spake to the woman, that she might behold
The fruit of her loins, and the story unfold.

Said to the disciple, thy mother now see,
He well understood and with him did agree,
To his house she was taken that very same hour,
The work was accomplished as presented before.

Then Jesus did thirst, when vinegar was given,
In a sponge they prepared to present it more even,
When he said it is finished, and gave up the ghost,
His legs were not broken, but his side they had pierced.

The others not so, their bones they did break,
The same was foretold, much pains they did take,
The scriptures fulfilled, very plainly we see,
All prophets and martyrs in the same did agree.

Then Joseph appeared, his body desired,
King Pilate consented as he was inspired,
Then bound him in linen, with spices and myrrh,
To fit him for burial as he did prefer.

New tomb in the garden where this was all done,
No person was in it, for Christ was the one,
When Mary came early, first day of the week,
Found the stone was removed from one she did seek.

She runneth to Simon, and another did meet,
Unfolded her story, the same did repeat,
They ran both together, but John arrived first,
And Peter came after, fulfilling his trust.

Went in before John, saw the linen clothes lie,
The napkin one side was not very nigh,
The first then believed, as the others had done,
While Mary stood weeping because of this son.

Two angels were sitting, at the head and the feet,
They said unto Mary, why dost thou weep?
Her Lord had been taken, no trace could be found,
But soon she beheld him on turning around.

Jesus spake unto Mary, Rabboni she said,
The meaning was master, her spirits would feed,
Said, go to my brethren, tell them I ascend,
Return to my father and their fathers' friend.

She told the disciples what Jesus did say,
The words which he uttered by night and by day,
All doors being shut, for fear of the Jews,
He came in great mercy, no one did refuse.

His hands and his side to them he did show,
My peace now receive, I give unto you,
The disciples were glad in beholding their Lord,
On them he did breathe, and their feelings were stirred.

But Thomas was absent, called Didymus of old,
Being one of the twelve and one of the fold,
He would not believe unless he should see,
The print of the nails would make him agree.

The doors being shut, when eight days were gone,
His disciples all present, with Thomas had come,

Jesus stood in the midst, said peace be with you,
Told Thomas to handle, and his faith would renew.

My Lord and my God, at once he did say,
Then Thomas was ready his will to obey,
Because he had seen, he believed every word,
Could utter amen, his feelings were stirred.

The Savior then said, because thou hast seen,
The same hast believed all things that I mean,
But those are more blessed who have never beheld,
And yet have believed all that is revealed.

By many more signs Jesus showed himself God,
With all his disciples, and scattered abroad,
Not all written here, this book don't contain,
It cannot declare it, so much doth remain.

Then to his disciples he appeareth again,
Gives Peter a charge, this plainly is seen,
Foretelleth his death, very soon he must die,
Being slain by the people, would cause them to sigh.

At the sea of Tiberias, where Peter would go,
To catch a few fish those people did know,
Caught nothing that night, when he came to the shore,
Saw Jesus, the Savior, as he had done before.

Have ye here any meat? unto Peter he said,
No fish can we find, no meat to be had,
Now let down the net, then Jesus did say,
Peter lost no time, but that word did obey.

They cast out the net upon the right side,
Great multitudes gathered, which there did abide,
Not able to draw them, such a haul they did make,
Surprised Simon Peter the hoards they did take.

He jumped in the sea when he knew 'twas the Lord
Soon another ship came, much help did afford,
Full two hundred cubits they drew to the land,
The fish they had taken, we all understand.

Saw a good coal fire, some fish lay thereon,
With bread all prepared, for what they had done,
The net was not broken, as we plainly perceive,
For the Savior had spoken, no more did they grieve.

They had a good dinner, gave thanks to the Lord,
Had much to consider, much love could afford,
Jesus spake of his death, and said follow me,
Exhibit your interest spontaneous and free.

Said to Peter, be faithful, my sheep thou shalt feed,
In doing these things much help you will need,
If he would be faithful, his mission obey,
He then would be happy by night and by day.

In closing this book, may it be understood,
The instructions they had were all very good,
But a few here presented, all pointed and clear,
Sufficient to show us the way we should steer.

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THE CLOSING PAGE.

The Gospels I've presented here, so plain and simple too,
The little child who reads with care may find the sayings true,
Should I encouragement receive, the same as heretofore,
Remaining portions soon will give, which I've laid up in store.

Present the Bible, which I have in poetry expressed,
Both old and new the substance give, affording peace and rest,
A handsome volume, neatly bound, engravings will be there,
Four hundred pages may be found, demanding time and care.

Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs too, the reign of mighty kings,
Both great and small, the good and true, same punished for
their sins,
Adam and Eve, their offspring given, the course they took in life,
Moses, Goliah, David, Stephen, and who they took for wife.

Esau and Jacob, Daniel too, and Sampson with the rest,
Abram and Isaac, what they do, old Job who stood the test,
The Temple built by Solomon, while king upon the throne,
Those bearing rule when he had done, the seeds which they
had sown.

The Lion's den, their prowess stayed, how Sampson slew his
foes,
How Moses by the Lord was saved, but Pharaoh overthrows,
Of Joseph and his brethren too, how God preserves the good,
Although to Egypt he did go, they came to him for food.

Those ten commandments plainly given by God the heavenly
king,
The course made known which leads to heaven, where saints
in glory sing,
Examples shown by wicked men, of Haman and his tribe,
Those wandering in the paths of sin, in all their pomp and pride.

The general features as they rise, presented plain and clear,
Will make the prudent soul more wise, the richest armor wear,
While erring ones are seen to fall, no one can stand the test,
Must feel the rod, like wicked Saul, expose their naked breast.

The case of Lot, and Sodom's fare, with Nebuchadnezzar's reign,
Those Hebrew children God did spare, no sign of fire was seen,
Belshazzar and his impious feast, how Daniel stands erect,
When King Belshazzar proved the last, as he did not expect.

Of Noah, riding on the flood above the mountains' top,
The course he took had been so good, his soul was filled with hope,
Lands safely on Mount Ararat, with all his valued freight,
While those their Maker had forgot did find themselves too late.

State Jonah's case while on the sea, because he had done wrong,
Though from his master strove to flee, could not continue long,
The whale did meet, in sorrow too, when winds and waves
run high,
It pacified the frightened crew, not one of them did die.

The old and new are treated thus, from Genesis may be seen,
In Revelations, closes up, shows what the Scriptures mean,
Rehearsing all that's done and said within the sacred page,
Presenting what each one may need, in every clime and age.

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